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Agenda item 20 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Liberia: revised draft resolution

Special assistance to Central African countries receiving refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/24 of 2 December 1994,

Deeply concerned by the massive flow of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons in Central Africa,

Welcoming the prospects for the voluntary return, repatriation and reintegration of refugees in safety and dignity and efforts made to find durable solutions to their plight,

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive to an early and sustainable solution to the flow of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons,

Bearing in mind the evident impact of these massive flows of refugees on the basic infrastructure and on the life and property of local populations in those host countries,

Also bearing in mind the deterioration of the economic, social and health infrastructure and the ecological impact in the areas receiving refugees,

Realizing the importance of assisting the host countries, in particular those countries that have been hosting refugees for a long time, to remedy

environmental deterioration and the negative effects on public services and the development process,

Gravely concerned by the effects which epidemics are having on the health of refugees and local communities in certain areas,

Observing that the humanitarian aid dispatched should as far as possible take into consideration the scale of the needs of the local populations,

Recognizing that the countries receiving refugees, most of them least developed countries, continue to experience an extremely critical economic situation,

Expressing again its appreciation to the countries which have received refugees for the sacrifices which they are making in granting refuge and hospitality to them,

Stressing the need to continue providing special assistance to the local populations of the countries receiving refugees,

1. Congratulates the Secretary-General for the efforts he has made to draw the attention of the international community to the situation of refugees in Central African countries;

2. Expresses its gratitude to all States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have done so for the financial, technical and material assistance they have been delivering to those countries that have been receiving refugees since the onset of the crisis and for the humanitarian assistance they have continued to render to refugees and the host countries, and calls upon them to continue to provide assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and social infrastructure in areas affected by the massive presence of refugees in those host countries;

3. Expresses its deep concern at the serious social, economic, health and ecological impact that the massive and unexpected presence of refugees can have;

4. Calls upon all African Governments and in particular those of Central Africa to do their utmost to assist refugees, notwithstanding the constraints which their limited resources place upon them;

5. Urges the Governments of the region and all concerned parties to provide safe and unhindered access for United Nations and other humanitarian personnel to the populations in need in all areas of the region;

6. Calls upon all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international financial and development institutions to facilitate the restoration of the basic services destroyed in the countries receiving refugees;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the follow-up to the present resolution.